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Ref BURUNDI
U80

December 20, 1994

TO: Ambassador Albright
THRU: Ambassador Gnehm
FROM: POL - Cameron R. Hume *WEN*
SUBJECT: Security Council Informals, December 20, 10:30 am, Other
Matters (BURUNDI)

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Background

During yesterday's briefing of the SC by De Soto, members questioned whether the Secretariat's information that the crisis was resolved was indeed accurate. Amb. Manzi said he would brief the Council today on his meeting with Burundi Minister of Constitutional Reform. The Department informs us there is still tension in Burundi and wants us to propose issuance of a Presidential Statement. The Department has provided some elements to be included in a statement. We can offer to work with other interested delegations in drafting a statement, or we can provide our elements to the Presidency, as the Members prefer. Attached is a separate page with our elements. While other agenda items are being discussed this morning, we will work on turning this elements into a draft statement.

Talking Points

- We are quite concerned about the potential for an explosion in Burundi.
- Past experience has shown that attention from the international community can have a helpful effect on the situation in Bujumbura.
- We think that at this point a Presidential statement might help the Burundians overcome their current political crisis.
- We have in mind some elements which could be included in such a statement, and we are prepared to work together with other interested delegations to prepare a draft.

drafted:POL:LLShestack wang 24555, 12/20/94
cleared:POL:WBWood

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Elements for a Presidential Statement on
Burundi

-- ALTHOUGH MUCH POLITICAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT IMPASSE OVER LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

-- THE SOLUTION TO THE IMPASSE MUST BE FOUND THROUGH DIALOGUE. WE URGE ALL SIDES TO REJECT CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS AND TO WORK TOWARD COMPROMISE AND CONCILIATION.

-- WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI, BOTH IN BUJUMBURA AND IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

-- THE VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI THREATENS TO FURTHER DESTABILIZE AN ALREADY FRAGILE REGION.

-- WE URGE ALL SIDES TO REJECT EXTREMISM AND REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE AND CALL ON BURUNDI'S SECURITY FORCES TO USE RESTRAINT IN MAINTAINING ORDER.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL FULLY SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE BURUNDI AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT THOSE COMMITTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

-- A MAJOR CONCERN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS THE LARGE NUMBER OF RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN REFUGEES AND THEIR MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE REGION.

-- WE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI'S PROPOSAL TO HOST A REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER TOGETHER SPECIFIC ACTIONS WHICH COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN TAKE TO ADDRESS THE PRESSING REGIONAL REFUGEE PROBLEM.